

What is claimed is;

1. An electronic camera comprising:

a signal processing unit that is capable of
amplifying an image signal output by an imaging device at
5 a plurality of gains; and

a photographing operation control device that
performs a preliminary photographing operation prior to
a main photographing operation and performs said main
photographing operation based upon results of said
10 preliminary photographing operation.

2. An electronic camera comprising:

a signal processing unit that is capable of
amplifying an image signal output by an imaging device at
15 a plurality of gains; and

a photographing operation control device that
performs a preliminary photographing operation
accompanied by a light emission by an electronic flash unit
prior to a main photographing operation when photographing
20 is to be performed using said electronic flash unit and
determines a light emission quantity at said electronic
flash unit for said main photographing operation based upon
results of said preliminary photographing operation in
order to perform said main photographing operation.

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3. An electronic camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

a gain changing device that sets a gain at said signal processing unit for said preliminary photographing

5 operation higher than a gain for said main photographing operation.

4. An electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein:

said photographing operation control device sets an
10 exposure time for said preliminary photographing operation shorter than an exposure time set for said main photographing operation.

5. An electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein:

15 said preliminary photographing operation and said main photographing operation are performed in succession in response to a single release operation.

6. An electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein:

20 a light emission quantity at said electronic flash unit for said preliminary photographing operation is lower than a light emission quantity for said main photographing operation.

25 7. An electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein:

a light emission quantity at said electronic flash unit for said preliminary photographing operation is set based upon an aperture value set at a taking lens and a photographing distance.

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8. An electronic camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

a recording device that records image data obtained through photographing, wherein:

10 only image data obtained through said main photographing operation are recorded in said recording device without recording image data obtained through said preliminary photographing operation.

15 9. An electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein:

image data obtained through said main photographing operation are still image data.

10. A digital still camera comprising:

20 an imaging device that converts light flux from a subject to an image signal;

a signal processing unit that processes the image signal output by said imaging device;

a release switch operated to issue a command for a
25 start of a photographing operation; and

a control unit that performs a preliminary
photographing operation in response to an operation of said
release switch, inputs an image signal then output by said
imaging device, sets photographing conditions for a
5 subsequent main photographing operation based upon the
image signal, performs said main photographing operation
under the conditions thus set and records an image signal
then output by said imaging device into a recording medium.

10 11. A digital still camera according to claim 10, further
comprising:

an electronic flash unit that illuminates the
subject, wherein:

said control unit irradiates illuminating light from
15 said electronic flash unit during said preliminary
photographing operation and said main photographing
operation.

12. A digital still camera according to claim 11,
20 wherein:

said control unit implements control on said signal
processing unit to ensure that a gain for said preliminary
photographing operation is set higher than a gain for said
main photographing operation.